

curricula, to hospital managers to make better provision for the treatment and nursing; and to graduates who are seeking interesting topics for their alumnae associations to work upon, we would say that here is a subject timely, much neglected, and of vast importance.

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### SOME OF THE REASONS

It is not only in the army and in our regular hospitals that there seems to be a scarcity of good nurses, but in the broader fields that are opening up we frequently hear of great difficulties which boards in different lines are having to secure the right kind of women for special kinds of nursing work. The tuberculosis crusade has taken a great many into that field, while district nursing calls for the very highest type of women, although even in that direction we hear the cry that it is impossible to get enough. Boards of Health in a number of cities that we have known about have started out with the very commendable ruling that only graduates of the highest grade of schools, or women who are registered where such laws are in force, shall be eligible for positions in the tuberculosis or contagious hospitals. It has been our humiliating experience to see these standards broken down in a number of instances, simply because the women of the higher type have refused to take these positions, and inexperienced nurses have been placed in important positions simply because no others were available.

The salary offered for these positions is usually only fifty dollars. We think institutions will have to make up their minds to pay higher salaries to women of experience, and we see no reason why they should not, particularly in a contagious hospital. We understand that the insane hospitals are having their own difficulties in securing able women for the permanent positions, and we here again think that state and city institutions will have to increase the salary allowance in order to meet the situation. In every line of work requiring skilled labor there is a scarcity of competent men and women all over the country. It is in the trades, in every line of business, among teachers of every class, and, as we know, in all kinds of public institutions. The cost of living has increased very materially, the ordinary food supplies, clothing, and rent having advanced steadily in the past few years, and yet the salaries to teachers and nurses in permanent positions have not advanced. We believe this is one reason why the institutions of every kind are having such difficulty in filling their permanent positions.

The great library development of the country, with the establishment of library schools, is comparatively recent, and has taken great

numbers of the educated classes of women who formerly entered the training-schools. Stenography is another line, and business opportunities are developing in so many ways, that in order to compete with all these different forces, nursing education will have to be placed on a higher plane and the compensation paid to nurses in permanent positions increased.

The demand is for women of the highest education and experience in nursing work; not for women with only technical knowledge.

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#### THE ASSOCIATED ALUMNÆ MEETING IN RICHMOND

THE date of the annual convention of the Nurses' Associated Alumnae of the United States, to be held in Richmond, Virginia, has been fixed for Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, May 14, 15, and 16, 1907.

This will take the members further South than they have yet gone, at a season of the year when the weather is most delightful in that section, and to a city renowned for its beauty and hospitality. There should be a very large attendance, and we make the announcement early, that the members may make their plans accordingly.

The programme for the meeting will be announced at an early date.

There is to be a section for the discussion of the subject of state registration, to be presided over by Miss Sarah E. Sly, of Birmingham, Michigan, the Interstate Secretary.

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#### VENEREAL PROPHYLAXIS

WE give in this number the first of two papers on Venereal Prophylaxis, contributed by Dr. Marion Craig Potter, of Rochester, New York, which are especially valuable at this time, when agitation on the subject is so widespread. These papers cover an address given by request before the Monroe County Registered Nurses' Association early in December, and they embody instruction which Dr. Potter has given to the pupils of the training-school of the Rochester City Hospital, during the past six years. We call the attention of superintendents of the schools which have not afforded such instruction to their pupils, to the manner in which Dr. Potter has handled this very difficult subject, and we advise such superintendents to see to it that their pupils are properly instructed in regard to this whole broad question of venereal and moral prophylaxis before graduating from the training-schools.